

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An interface device for interfacing user devices to an asynchronous transfer made (ATM) network is disclosed. The interface device facilitates interfacing a number of different types of user devices to the ATM network. The interface device comprises input/output units to interface with a number of user devices. The interface device also contains a power conversion module to provide power to the input/output units and other elements, as well as store energy so that the interface device can function, at least partially, during a system failure or power failure. The interface device is electrically and logically insulated from the user devices, such as workstations or host computers, to facilitate at least partial functioning during a system failure or power failure. The interface device also provides a natural speech processor to convert natural language into computer recognizable language at a location near the user device. The interface device also provides for a gate keeping function to assist in detecting and discontinuing unusual transactions.